Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

decoding, by the computer, a first slice of a first frame of a video by performing a submethod comprising:

determining, in accordance with a slice header of the first slice, that the first slice has a decoding dependency on a second slice of a second frame of the video;

determining that said second slice has not been decoded;

suspending decoding the first slice for a first predetermined amount of time; then

determining after said first predetermined amount of time that said second slice has not been decoded; then

suspending decoding the first slice at least one subsequent time, wherein the length of each subsequent suspension of time is reduced by another predetermined amount; then

determining that said second slice has been decoded; and

transforming said first slice from an encoded state to a decoded state; and

decoding, by the computer, said second slice;

wherein said first and second slices each comprise a plurality of macroblocks that are respectively selected from said first and second frames of the video.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and the second frame are the same frame.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable instructions that when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising:

decode a first slice of a first frame of a video by performing a submethod comprising:

determining, in accordance with a slice header of the first slice, that the first slice has a decoding dependency on a second slice;

determining that said second slice has not been decoded;

suspending decoding the first slice for a first predetermined amount of time; then

determining after said first predetermined amount of time that said second slice has not been decoded; then

suspending decoding the first slice at least one subsequent time, wherein the length of each subsequent suspension of time is reduced by another predetermined amount; then

determining that said second slice has been decoded; and

transforming said first slice from an encoded state to a decoded state;

decode a second slice of a second frame of the video; and

render said decoded first and second slices;

wherein said first and second slices each comprise a plurality of macroblocks that are respectively selected from said first and second frames of the video.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a buffer to store frames of a video;

a first decoding unit coupled to the buffer to decode a first slice of a first frame of the video by performing a method comprising:

determining, in accordance with a slice header of the first slice, that the first slice has a decoding dependency on a second slice;

determining that said second slice has not been decoded;

suspending decoding the first slice for a first predetermined amount of time; then

determining after said first predetermined amount of time that said second slice has not been decoded; then

suspending decoding the first slice at least one subsequent time, wherein the length of each subsequent suspension of time is reduced by another predetermined amount; then

determining that said second slice has been decoded; and

transforming said first slice from an encoded state to a decoded state; and

a second decoding unit to decode a second slice of a second frame of the video;

wherein said first and second slices each comprise a plurality of macroblocks that are respectively selected from said first and second frames of the video.

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is an ASIC comprising said first and second decoding units.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is a circuit board comprising an ASIC having at least one of said first and second decoding units.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the apparatus is a selected one of a palm sized computing device, a wireless mobile phone, a digital personal assistant, a set-top box, a digital versatile disk player, a television, and a display monitor.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the first and second decoding units comprise first and second threads of programming instructions designed to perform said first and second decoding respectively; and

the apparatus further comprises one or more memory units to store the programming instructions, and at least one processor coupled to the one or more memory units to execute the first and second threads of programming instructions.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the apparatus is a selected one of a palm sized computing device, a wireless mobile phone, a digital personal assistant, a laptop computing device, a desktop computing device, a set-top box, a server, a digital versatile disk player, a television, and a display monitor.

26. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a video provider to provide an encoded video; and

a video renderer coupled to the video provider to receive the encoded video, decode the received video, and render the decoded video, including

a first decoding unit to decode a first slice of a first frame of the video by performing a method comprising:

determining, in accordance with a slice header of the first slice, that the first slice has a decoding dependency on a second slice;

determining that said second slice has not been decoded;

suspending decoding the first slice for a first predetermined amount of time; then

determining after said first predetermined amount of time that said second slice has not been decoded; then

suspending decoding the first slice at least one subsequent time, wherein the length of each subsequent suspension of time is reduced by another predetermined amount; then

determining that said second slice has been decoded; and

transforming said first slice from an encoded state to a decoded state, and

a second decoding to decode a second slice of a second frame of the video;

wherein said first and second slices each comprise a plurality of macroblocks that are respectively selected from said first and second frames of the video.

27-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of macroblocks comprise a plurality of non-sequential macroblocks.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the first and the second frame are the same frame.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said plurality of macroblocks comprise a plurality of non-sequential macroblocks.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first and the second frame are the same frame.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said plurality of macroblocks comprise a plurality of non-sequential macroblocks.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the first and the second frame are the same frame.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said plurality of macroblocks comprise a plurality of non-sequential macroblocks.